

# **THE JACOBS REPORT**

**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 8, 2005**

**Contact: Matt Levin**  
**(517) 373-7888**

---

## **GRANHOLM KNOTS JOBS & LONG TERM CARE**

### **Proposal will create more than 5,000 jobs, update aging facilities**

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm highlighted details of her proposal to renovate many of the state's aging long-term care (LTC) facilities as part of her plan to create tens of thousands of jobs and jumpstart Michigan's economy this year. In a speech to an LTC seminar in Lansing and during a visit to an LTC facility in Grand Rapids, the governor said that upgrading LTC facilities, included in the Jobs Today Initiative, is part of a broader strategy to spur a rapid infusion of public and private investment in badly needed infrastructure projects in the state.

"Not only is Michigan's population aging, but the facilities that care for people in need are also aging," said Gov. Granholm. "This plan will put scores of Michigan women and men to work in a variety of jobs, from the skilled trades to service and sales, and will accelerate renovation projects at long-term care facilities to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to receive the care they need in a safe and dignified manner."

The average LTC facility in Michigan is 30 years old. Until recently, regulatory barriers and inadequate reimbursement rates thwarted new construction and renovation improvements. Last fall, the Department of Community Health and the Certificate of Need Commission took necessary action to remove the regulatory barriers. With the introduction of the Jobs Today Initiative, Gov. Granholm has removed the final barrier.

Under the governor's plan, up to 75 LTC facilities will be eligible to receive an incentive to build community oriented housing for the state's most vulnerable citizens. The Initiative will offer a new supplement of \$5.00 per day for each Medicaid eligible resident in these facilities. Eligibility for the supplement will depend on a number of factors, including adoption of the new patient and family-friendly LTC designs, the ability to commit to beginning construction rapidly and the age and condition of the facility being replaced and the presence of an LTC single point of entry in the region being served.

"This is an excellent opportunity for facilities lacking size and/or modernization. Governor Granholm is giving them the means to take action," said Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods).

The Jobs Today Initiative is a three-year program to accelerate the pace of state and local infrastructure projects that were scheduled to begin over the next decade and includes three areas of investment in environmental cleanup.

First announced in the Governor's 2005 State of the State Address, the Jobs Today Initiative will create jobs in seven key areas, including: affordable housing construction and renovation; school improvement and repair; pollution cleanup; road improvements; long-term care facility construction and renovation; downtown development; and university campus improvements.

The governor said that last month's 2005 budget agreement paved the way for many of the accelerated projects to begin this construction season. As part of the agreement, legislative approval was given to the \$38 million in pollution cleanup projects as well as \$220 million in projects to upgrade universities and community colleges. In addition, Granholm said \$400 million in accelerated road projects will also begin this year.

Gov. Granholm said she will ask the state Legislature to approve two key changes in the law to create incentives for local governments to accelerate their own infrastructure improvements: a change in the state's School Bond Loan fund will make it easier for Michigan school districts to renovate aging school buildings without raising taxes, and a new provision to allow cities to expand the boundaries of their downtown development zones will spur new job creation and development projects.

"Jobs must be the first order of business for everyone in Michigan today," Granholm said. "We can make our communities cleaner, safer, and more livable while we put people back to work."

## **SHARP DECLINE IN MICHIGAN TRAFFIC DEATHS**

Michigan experienced a nearly 10 percent drop in traffic deaths in 2004, with 124 fewer persons dying on the state's roadways, according to just-released information from the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC).

The number of traffic deaths fell from 1,283 in 2003 to 1,159 in 2004, the lowest figure since 1945. This drop in traffic deaths represents an economic savings of more than \$133 million.

"The bottom line is that fewer citizens are dying in traffic accidents and that's good news," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "Michigan's law enforcement family works hard everyday to protect Michigan's families at home and on the road."

Injuries also dropped approximately 5.5 percent, from 105,555 in 2003 to 99,680 in 2004.

CJIC estimates the fatality rate fell from 2003 at 1.31 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled to 1.16 in 2004.

"While an in-depth analysis will be necessary to precisely pinpoint the reasons behind this remarkable drop in traffic deaths, it is likely this decline is at least partially linked to a dramatic increase in safety belt use," said Col. Tadarial J. Sturdivant, director of the Michigan State Police. "This is also the first full year under the state's tougher drunk driving law, which may also have contributed to this decline."

In 2004, Michigan became only the sixth state to reach a safety belt use rate of at least 90 percent. Additionally, 2004 was also the first full year in which the legal definition of drunk driving was set at .08 blood-alcohol content. This change was effective in fall 2003.

The state likewise experienced a more than 5 percent decline in traffic deaths involving alcohol and/or drugs, falling from 442 deaths in 2003 to 418 in 2004 – representing 36.1 percent of all traffic deaths. In addition, drunk driving arrests fell slightly, from 55,728 in 2003 to 55,056 in 2004.

The crash data also shows:

Deer crashes fell more than 7 percent, from 67,760 in 2003 to 62,707 in 2004. This included three fatalities and 1,647 injuries in 2004.

The number of crashes involving young drivers (ages 16 - 20) fell slightly from 52,215 in 2003 to 50,085 in 2004.

Pedestrian crashes dropped from 2,953 in 2003 to 2,724 in 2004. The number of pedestrians killed also fell, from 169 pedestrians killed in 2003 to 141 in 2004.

A 4 percent increase was noted in motorcycle crashes, from 3,187 in 2003 to 3,321 in 2004 (79 people were killed in crashes involving motorcycles and 2,803 people were injured). The number of registered motorcycles in Michigan also continued to increase.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) will release a comprehensive report on traffic crashes in the fall.

## **HOW TO REPORT FRAUD AND TERRORIST ACTIVITY**

The Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C).

IFCC's mission is to address fraud committed over the Internet. For victims of Internet fraud, IFCC provides a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of a suspected criminal or civil violation. For law enforcement and regulatory agencies at all levels, IFCC offers a central repository for complaints related to Internet fraud, works to quantify fraud patterns, and provides timely statistical data of current fraud trends.

Report fraud or terrorist activity: [www.ifccfbi.gov](http://www.ifccfbi.gov)

---

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the

Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

####